

REMARKS

Entry of the foregoing amendments is respectfully requested.

Summary of Amendments

Upon entry of the foregoing amendments, claims 118-137 are cancelled and claims 138-145 are added, whereby claims 138-145 will be pending, with claim 138 being the only independent claim.

Support for the new claims can be found throughout the present specification and in the cancelled claims.

Applicants emphasize that the cancellation of claims 118-137 is without prejudice or disclaimer, and Applicants expressly reserve the right to prosecute the cancelled claims in one or more continuation and/or divisional applications.

Summary of Office Action

Claims 129-137 are withdrawn from consideration.

Claims 127 and 128 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim and containing further non-elected subject matter.

Claims 118-126 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for allegedly failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention.

Claims 118-126 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Pamukcu et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,410,584 (hereafter “PAMUKCU”).

Response to Office Action

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection and rejections of record are respectfully requested, in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Response to Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph

Claims 118-126 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for allegedly failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention.

Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner in this regard. At any rate, the rejected claims are cancelled, whereby the instant rejection is moot.

Response to Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102(b)

Claim 118-126 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by PAMUKCU.

Applicants submit that the rejected claims are cancelled, whereby the instant rejection is moot. It furthermore is pointed out that claim 138 submitted herewith (corresponding generally to cancelled claim 128) is not rejected over PAMUKCU.

Regarding method claims 139-145 submitted herewith, the Examiner is reminded of the rejoinder practice set forth in MPEP 821.04(b).

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is believed that all of the claims in this application are in condition for allowance, wherefore an early issuance of the Notices of Allowance and Allowability is respectfully solicited. If any issues yet remain which can be resolved by a telephone conference, the Examiner is respectfully invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,
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/Heribert F. Muensterer/

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